Production of blended jute yarn

336. SHRI BHAGABAN MAJHI: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the blended jute yarn produced in India has tremendous market potential in several countries;

(b) if so, the steps taken to increase the production of blended jute yarn; and

(c) the schemes drawn up in this regard for the coming years?

THE MINISTER OF TEXTILES (SHRI G. VENKAT SWAMY): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) Government has encouraged various jute mills and entrepreneurs to undertake the manufacturing of blended jute yarn. Under UNDP assisted Jute Programme certain mills in the organised sector have been assisted in setting up of plants for manufacturing of jute blended yarn. Jute entrepreneurs have also been assisted in setting up of mini jute spinning units for manufacturing jute fine yarn.

Export of jute goods to Japan

337. SHRI BHAGABAN MAJHI: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Japan is keen to import jute goods from India;

(b) if so, the details of the orders placed or proposed by Japan for import of Jute goods;

(c) the steps taken by Government thereafter; and

(d) which are the other countries importing jute goods from India?

THE MINISTER OF TEXTILES (SHRI G. VENKAT SWAMY): (a) to (c) Japan is a regular importer of jute goods from India. Export of jute goods from India to Japan during 1992-93 and 1993-94 was as follows:—

	Qty. '000MT	Value (Rs./cr)
1992-93 . . .	8.9	19.32
1993-94 . . .	7.9	18.57

In order to increase the export of jute and jute goods to various countries, Govt. have taken a number of measures including, inter-alia. participating in international fairs, organising buyer-seller meets, liaising with importers and end users, funding R&D activities to develop a new range of diversified jute products to suit consumer preferences, External Market Assistance Scheme.

(d) Major importers of jute goods from India are U.K , U.S.A. Canada, Australia, New Zealand, Germany. Belgiam, Spain Morocco and the Gulf Region.

Ris in cotton prices

338. SHRI BHAGABAN MAJHI: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) the reasons for the rise in the prices of cotton in the domestic market in the country;

(b) whether Government have reviewed the impact of the rise of cotton prices on the textile sector; and

(c) if so, the steps taken to tackle the situation and to regulate the prices of cotton?

THE MINISTER OF TEXTILES (SHRI G. VENKAT SWAMY): (a) The reasons for the rise in the prices of cotton are short arrivals in the market, demage to cotton crop in